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ratory or tents, cottages or hotel accommodations available on the Point.

The new laboratory building which will accommodate at least one hundred students and investigators is already under construction under contract to be finished by June 15. This building includes four large laboratory rooms that will accommodate twenty to twenty-five students each in general work, two lecture rooms, four small laboratory rooms for special classes and rooms for about twenty research students or investigators, also private rooms for instructors, store room, dark rooms and other conveniences.

The location is about a half mile from the docks and buildings of the Pleasure Resort thus making it convenient to steamers and for mail, express, etc., but far enough away so that the work will not be interfered with by the patrons of the resort, nor will the virgin conditions of forest, beach and dunes be likely to suffer change for generations to come.

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*COMMITTEE ON THE PURITY OF CHEMICALS.*

At the last annual meeting of the American Chemical Society, held in Washington in December, a committee, consisting of Professors Baskerville, Dennis, Hillebrand, Talbot and the president of the society as chairman, *ex officio*, was appointed to investigate the question of the purity of chemicals sold as pure for use as reagents. It is held by many analytical chemists that the quality of the reagents as furnished by dealers is far from satisfactory, and below the grade sold some years ago. It is also well known that the designations 'C. P.', 'Chemically Pure' and 'Strictly Pure' as employed by certain dealers are practically meaningless. The committee wishes to discover the extent of the evil complained of in order to be able to suggest a remedy. Chemists who are interested in the matter and who are acquainted with facts bearing on the subject are invited to communicate their information to Professor H. P. Talbot, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston.

*TYPHOID FEVER AT PALO ALTO AND STANFORD UNIVERSITY.*

THE following are the facts in relation to the outbreak of typhoid fever in Palo Alto.

During the past winter, a dairy formerly of good repute, lying about four miles from Palo Alto, was leased to a Portuguese family. In this family, in March, a death occurred from typhoid fever. Two of the three houses stand on the bank of a brook which bounds the cattle yard. From this brook a wooden channel carries water to a large wooden trough within the yard. In this trough the cans and pails of the dairy were washed.

From the house, the excreta of the fever patient seem to have been thrown, Latin-fashion, on the ground, to be washed by the rains into the brook, and thence into the trough.

One of the milkmen supplying the town of Palo Alto bought milk from this Parreiro dairy. About April 6 cases of fever appeared in Palo Alto. The water supply of the town, as well as that of the university, from deep driven wells, was found above suspicion. This dairy was examined, bacilli were found in its milk, and on April 8 the milk route was closed. In this period, however, many people had taken the milk, and in the next three weeks there were upwards of 150 cases in the town, 80 of them being students of Stanford University.

On the university campus, a mile away, about 850 of the 1,480 students of the university live. Two fraternity houses on the campus were served with milk from Parreiro's. In one of these houses fourteen out of twenty persons were attacked. In the other four out of twenty. In the university dormitories, and in the remaining fraternities there have been a few cases, persons who had eaten at a Palo Alto restaurant or had been guests at some infected house.

About 110 cases have developed among the students of the university, and there have been four deaths, all in Palo Alto. The source of infection was promptly detected. The period of incubation, about three weeks, is now past; every care has been taken to pre-

vent secondary infection, and thus far there have been no cases from such infection.

There is no epidemic, no panic, and no 'infected' district. The chief lesson lies in the need of closer inspection of the habits and methods of dairymen and gardeners who come from the south of Europe.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE following fifteen candidates have been selected by the council of the Royal Society to be recommended for election into the society: Dr. William Maddock Bayliss, Professor Thomas William Bridge, Dr. Sydney Monckton Copeman, Mr. Horace Darwin, Mr. William Philip Hiern, Mr. Henry Reginald Arnulph Mallock, Professor David Orme Masson, Mr. Arthur George Perkin, Professor Ernest Rutherford, Professor Ralph Allen Sampson, Mr. John Edward Stead, Mr. Aubrey Strahan, Professor Johnson Symington, Professor John S. Townsend and Mr. Alfred North Whitehead.

M. DE FORCRAND has been elected a corresponding member of the Paris Academy of Sciences in the section of chemistry, in the room of the late M. Reboul.

THE contest of the election for the post of secretary to the Zoological Society of London has ended in an undoubted victory for the supporters of Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, who have occasionally been spoken of as the 'reform party.' The poll was unprecedentedly large and the numbers were: Mitchell, 530; Sclater, 336. Whatever views one may hold as to the respective merits of the candidates, it is at least satisfactory that the question has been settled in so definite a manner, as this will conduce to much greater stability in the future conduct of the society's affairs, and the storms that have raged over the contest are likely to calm down all the sooner.

PROFESSOR L. M. UNDERWOOD, of Columbia University, is still in Jamaica. He will visit Dominica and other islands of the Windward group, after which he will go to Europe to study ferns in English and continental botanical gardens and museums.

DR. J. PLAYFAIR McMURRICH, professor of anatomy at the University of Michigan, has accepted a commission from the Royal Academy of Prussia and the government of Holland to examine and identify certain species of animal life.

DR. ARTHUR HOLICK, assistant curator of the New York Botanical Garden, has received leave of absence for four months, with the object of investigating the fossil plants of Alaska in order to determine certain geological horizons through the aid of paleobotany.

HARLAN I. SMITH, of the American Museum of Natural History, has gone to North Yakima, Washington, where he has begun work on the archeology of the Columbia Valley in continuance of his general archeological reconnaissance of the northwest.

FOREST B. H. BROWN, a member of the senior class in the University of Michigan, has been appointed to conduct an investigation under the direction of the Michigan state geological survey of the plant societies of Monroe and Washtenaw counties, Michigan, with reference to their historical succession and their relation to water supply.

DR. GEORGE S. FULLERTON, professor of philosophy in the University of Pennsylvania, has gone to Germany and will spend the summer at Munich.

WE learn from *The British Medical Journal* that Mr. A. G. R. Foulerton has resigned the position of director of the Cancer Research Laboratories, a position which he has held for the last three years. The weekly board of the hospital has decided on the appointment of a director who will be required to devote the whole of his time to the work of the Cancer Research Laboratories. Mr. Foulerton will continue his service to the hospital as director of the Clinical and Bacteriological Laboratories.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE presided at the annual dinner of the British Iron and Steel Institute on May 8. Addresses were made by Mr. Balfour, the Duke of Devonshire, Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman and others.

THE following have been nominated as vice-presidents of the Royal Institution, London,